

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, ECEM, OTRA, US, IT

SUBJECT: LETHAL GAS EXPLOSION IN LOMBARDY--VISITS BY
ITALIANS TO U.S.

REF: (A) ROME 14710; (B) MILAN 1960; (C) STATE 218533

1. IN LIGHT OF SHORT TIME PERIOD AVAILABLE TO ARRANGE
SECOND MEETING IN WASHINGTON ON SEVESO AS REQUESTED
REF A, DEPARTMENT'S PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO STAGE ONE
MEETING INVITING BOTH ITALIAN GROUPS AT TIME AND PLACE
OUTLINED IN REF C PARA 1. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO BROADEN
GROUP OF U.S. EXPERTS TO INCLUDE THOSE REQUESTED IN
REF A PARA 1 AND REF B PARA 3.

2. IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH SPECIALIZED INTERESTS OF
POCCHIARI, GOVARDI, GARATTINI, AND FARA, WE WOULD BE
PREPARED TO ARRANGE FOR U.S. SPECIALISTS TO MEET IN
SMALLER GROUPS WITH ITALIANS AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 16
OR TO SCHEDULE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 17 AT
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NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FACILITY.

3. DEPARTMENT VIEWS REQUEST FOR MEETING OUTLINED REF A PARA 2 WITH CONSIDERABLE RESERVE. FROM OUTSET OF WASHINGTON INVOLVEMENT WITH SEVESO EXPLOSION, DEPARTMENT HAS EMPHASIZED STRICTLY CIVILIAN CHARACTER OF EVENT AND NEED FOR CIVILIAN APPROACH IN COPING WITH PROBLEMS ARISING FROM IT. PUBLICITY ATTENDING MEETING BETWEEN ITALIAN SCIENTISTS AND U.S. CHEMICAL WARFARE EXPERTS MIGHT LEND CREDENCE TO INACCURATE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS ON FICTIONAL ANTIDOTE AVAILABLE TO DEAL WITH DIOXIN POISON. U.S. CIVILIAN EXPERTS WITH WHOM ITALIANS INTEND TO MEET HERE CAN GIVE REQUISITE ASSURANCES CONCERNING THIS.

4. RE PARA 3 REF A, DR. TED COOPER, HEW, REGRETS HE WILL BE UNABLE TO MEET WITH POCCHIARI AND GOVARDI DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13 AS HE WILL BE AWAY ON BUSINESS TRIP OVERSEAS. DR. GUY NEWELL WILL UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING AS HE WILL BE OUT OF WASHINGTON ON THAT AND FOLLOWING DAY. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH ITALIANS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 15.

5. RE PARA 4 REF A, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR MEETINGS WITH NIH OFFICIALS ON SWINE FLUE VACCINATIONS WHEN SCHEDULE OF POCCHIARI AND GOVARDI IS FIRMED UP. KISSINGER

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